cannot impugne you as you doe proceed.
You ſtand within his danger, doe you not.
An. I, ſo he ſayes.
Por. Doe you confeſſe the bond?
An. I doe.
Por. Then muſt the Iew be mercifull.
Shy. On what compulſion muſt I, tell me that.
Por. The qualitie of mercie is not ſtraind,
it droppeth as the gentle raine from heauen
vpon the place beneath: it is twiſe bleſt,
it bleſſeth him that giues, and him that takes,
tis mightieſt in the mightieſt, it becomes
the throned Monarch better then his crowne.
His ſcepter ſhowes the force of temporall power,
the attribut to awe and maieſtie,
vvherein doth ſit the dread and feare of Kings:
but mercie is aboue this ſceptred ſway,
it is enthroned in the harts of Kings,
it is an attribut to God himſelfe;
and earthly power doth then ſhow likeſt gods
vvhen mercie ſeaſons iuſtice: therefore Iew,
though iuſtice be thy plea, conſider this,
that in the courſe of iuſtice, none of vs
ſhould ſee ſaluation: vve doe pray for mercy,
and that ſame prayer, doth teach vs all to render
the deedes of mercie. I haue ſpoke thus much
to mittigate the iuſtice of thy plea,
vvhich if thou follow, this ſtrict Court of Venice
muſt needes giue ſentence gainſt the Merchant there.
Shy. My deeds vpon my head, I craue the law,
the penalty and forfaite of my bond.
Por. Is he not able to diſcharge the money?
Baſſ. Yes, heere I tender it for him in the Court,
yea, twiſe the ſumme, if that will not ſuffiſe,
I will be bound to pay it ten times ore
on forfait of my hands, my head, my hart,
if this will not ſuffiſe, it muſt appeare

that malice beares downe truth. A
wreſt once the law to your authori
to doe a great right, doe a little wr
and curbe this cruell deuill of his w
Por. It muſt not be, there is no
can altar a decree eſtabliſhed:
twill be recorded for a precedent,
and many an errour by the ſame ex
will ruſh into the ſtate, it cannot be
Shy. A Daniell come to iudgem
O wiſe young Iudge how I doe ho
Por. I pray you let me looke vp
Shy. Heere tis moſt reuerend d
Por. *Shylocke* theres thrice thy m
Shy. An oath, an oath, I haue a
ſhall I lay periurie vpon my ſoule
Not not for Venice.
Por. Why this bond is forfait,
and lawfully by this the Iew may c
a pound of fleſh, to be by him cut
neereſt the Merchants hart: be me
take thrice thy money, bid me tear
Shy. When it is payd, according
It doth appeare you are a worthy
you know the law, your expoſitio
hath beene moſt ſound: I charge
vvhereof you are a well deſeruing
proceede to iudgement: by my ſo
there is no power in the tongue o
to alter me, I ſtay here on my Bon
An. Moſt hartelie I doe beſe
to giue the iudgement.
Por. Why than thus it is,
you muſt prepare your boſome fo
Shy. O noble Iudge, ô excelle
Por. For the intent and purpo
hath full relation to the penaltie,

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE *Merchant of Venice* (STC 22296) LONDON, 1600 THE BRITISH LIBRARY (C